

Revolutionary Logic



by

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After the Aftermath of September 11th, 2001

Since the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there has been a lot of rash and hasty discussion about going to war against Osama Bin laden and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Government leaders from George W. Bush, to local mayors, are all singing the same tune. The news media have eloped to drum up the 'war mentality' by showing what happened over, and over, and over again. Every news channel, every newspaper or magazine is talking about what has happened.

Young and old are buying up Amerikkkan flags in record numbers in this neo-patriotism, and people are rushing headlong to sign up for the military.

Bush has made several "made for T.V." speeches of war. He has bullied the world and made ultimatums by uttering , "either you are with us or you are with the terrorists." Needless to say, this is not the way a "civilized world" behaves, as U.S. politicians have been using the word lately to gain support. Again, even in the aftermath of this great tragedy, Bush and government leaders are throwing their weight around and forcing their beliefs and emotional feelings on other countries to join them, and if they refuse these countries are deemed terrorists. Hardly a responsible rational mind, taking such a position on the entire world.

In the aftermath of this act no one seems to want to ask the right questions on why this has happened? What would cause or make someone hate this country so diabolically, that they are willing to attack in this fashion? Willing to sacrifice themselves and leave their own children and loved ones, to fly planes into buildings and kill thousands of people? Why would anyone hate this country with such fervor that they would look past

the idea of hurting innocent people, just to strike a severe blow to the Amerikan economy and it's military headquarters? These are some of the questions the country at large is not asking, because none of the political leaders have taken the rational and responsible approach of presenting these concerns to the Amerikan people to ponder. The only thing being asked of the Amerikan people is "support the war" and "get ready for a long and bloody campaign."

I want to point out that as tragic as what has happened on September 11th, 2001, with thousands of lives lost and disrupted, Amerikkka isn't with clean hands itself. Amerikkka cannot sit back and cry to the world that it is innocent, and has never committed heinous acts of terror on other nations and on it's own citizenry, because it has. Amerikkka was built on terror and destruction. Amerikkka, Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Italy... all built their empires from terrorism, murder, rape, pillage, and destruction. And Amerikkka continues to commit these acts today. It is entrenched within their domestic and foreign policies.

The Amerikkkan government has been involved in open assassinations of Presidents and Heads of States of other countries, in order to place their own people over certain countries for exploitative purposes. They do this so corporations can go into these countries, and reap the benefits these countries have (i.e. natural resources) for their own kapitalist exploitation and greed.

Amerikkka has trained, and continues to train, armed assassins in The School of the America's in Georgia, so that Latin Amerikan trained soldiers (who've graduated from this school) can go back to their respective countries and disrupt existing governments that do not accept or go along with the dictates of Amerika's foreign policies. It wasn't too long ago that

Amerika, under the administration of Nixon and Kissinger, the CIA trained, sponsored, and endorsed death squads in Chile. They put Augusto Pinochet into power, who further terrorized the people of Chile for Amerikan business interests. Let us not forget Nicaragua and the atrocities that happened during the Reagan administration, and from those atrocities came the massive flow of cocaine into Black Amerika's ghettos and Latino barrios (to fund Reagan's illogical war). This led to the devastation of millions of lives via the unprecedented prison build up (AKA the Prison Industrial Complex), as a result of the cocaine epidemic, where up to 2 million people have been criminalized by an array of new laws being implemented.

We should not lose sight of the fact that Amerikkka has its own homegrown terrorists who've been killing, bombing, and murdering Black people, and nothing has ever been waged to stop this. Do we forget that racial terrorism by the Amerikan government has been ongoing against Blacks and Native Amerikan's (AKA First Nations) people for generations without cease? Do we forget that Amerikkka has policies that refuse to give food, medicine, and other material aid to whole countries, causing death, destruction, and disease to millions and millions of people, all because this country is angry at a particular country's leader(s). They impose economic sanctions which will hurt, not the leaders of those countries, but its people, namely women, children, and the elderly. Must we forget what Amerikkka has done, and view these as acceptable acts by right-minded people?

Amerikkka's hands aren't clean. And Amerikkka is not a saint. Amerikkka has done much horror and wrong, and have caused more lives to be lost than the attacks on September 11th, 2001.

Let us not misunderstand, I am not condoning what has happened on September 11th by any means. For it is not right nor just, to kill innocent people. But I am standing back from the reactionary emotionalism, and I'm looking at the overall picture. The one that this government, and it's propaganda machine, don't want you or I to think about. And that is, 'what caused this to come about in the first place'?

Rather than talk and suck people into supporting a war, if this government was responsible it would stop and rethink how they treat people around the world with it's foreign policies. How it treats it's own U.S. citizens. There would be no violence if there was justice, equitable distribution of the worlds resources, and real humanitarianism, where all people are truly represented and have a say in how their lives are governed.

When Bush and his people call for a war on terrorists we must stop and ask ourselves, "what is their absolute definition of the term"? This term could be used against anyone who is a legitimate freedom fighter against the policies of this system. Anyone who speaks of the condemnation of this government, or who writes materials denouncing this government, could be implied as either terrorists or advocating and supporting terrorist actions. Already, the government is calling the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front activists, terrorists. With today's rhetoric and definition of terrorists, the Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army, the American Indian Movement, and other dissenters of government would have been called terrorists groups. This is the danger we are facing with this reactionary rhetoric, and this is what we must allow to happen.

During World War I, Amerikkka came out with a law called the "Sedition Act", or the "alien and sedition

act", which made it a crime to advocate the overthrow of the federal government. As a result, many thousands of people were misused and abused. Not in a foreign country, but right here in the U.S. Then there was the "Smith Act", a law created during the 1940's, still in effect, making it illegal to say things that counter the government policy during times of war or national emergency. This was often used by the FBI as a rationale for COINTELPRO (the FBI's counterintelligence program). And let us not forget the horrors committed by the government during the 1950's when Joseph McCarthy harassed and destroyed lives under what has been termed "The McCarthy Era", when people were accused of being communists, and the government ruined many peoples lives, only to discover that there attacks were baseless.

If we are going to look at this tragedy then let's look at it with rational thinking. And let us look at the term "terrorist" as defined by the government. Accordingly, it's an FBI term, presently utilized by the entire government, meaning anyone engaging in resistance (armed or otherwise) to physical repression by the U.S. government.

If we aren't careful, if we aren't very careful, we all may find ourselves in some way, being labeled terrorists.

ASSASSINATION OF LOGIC

The murder of A Person or Peoples

We live in a world where anything goes. Where people will murder you for your political, religious or non-religious beliefs; your philosophical/ideological concepts and ideas.

We live in a world where you could be murdered for your car; where people will hate you for the type of clothing you wear or for no reason at all. Where misinformation and malicious lies, slander and mud slinging is the rule of the day and thrust upon you.

We live in a world where the good you've done for years and years can evaporate in a sentence of words, a four-page letter, a phone conversation or a doctored photograph.

We live in a world where in one moment you are loved, honored, praised, celebrated, supported, helped and appreciated for your dedication and loyalty of service, and in the blink of an eye find yourself shunned, called offensive names such as "a master bullshit artist", or your character is called into question and you're called "full of illusions".

We live in a world where the worst said about a person is always more readily listened to than the good the person has done. People would rather hear a lie and cast this among the stars rather than taking into consideration the best this person has done before making their judgments and comments about you.

We live in a world where even those who claim love, loyalty, diligence, affirmation and support for you can turn on you, abandoning that alleged warmth, and leave you as if you're the lowest species that's ever walked the face of the earth.

This is the damaging effect of Character Assassination and how the murder of a person or a whole people can take hold. And with no surprise to me, even those who've professed to be focused and intelligent individuals, educated and above listening to unproven allegations like revolutionist, liberals and humanitarians can be (and often times are) sucked in and prone to falling for whispered malicious words to assassinate the character of a person, group of people or a nation. Words bitter and stinging enough to break the spirit of a person or group who's given all they have and ever will have (their life) and placed it on the line in service of The People.

We must always remember that there are many forces in the world who are constantly working hard to destroy the few people who are working hard to make changes in their lives and the lives of the people, so that their lives can be lived devoid of oppression, repression, racism, sexism, homophobia and the other social ills that come through monetary greed and power.

The government and its various agencies will stoop to extremes...will dig under the bottom of the deepest pit just to meet their objectives, and so will some individuals. I know because I just come from up under a very strong character assassination attempt recently, and it has taken all my energy and strength to come from up under it. It has taken a toll on my ability to operate and function in a proper manner on the things I needed to do for the cause because so much energy had to be spent fighting the character assassination attempt. And I am still not sure if I have succeeded, but I am not worried about it at this point in time. I realize that my service is to ALL OF YOU and that keeps me up, even though I felt, for a time, terribly hurt and stunned. Not because of the character assassination, because I know this comes

with any revolutionist territory. But I was stunned because there were those I love very closely who, for a time and maybe still, "believed" some or all of those slanderous things said to attack me and my character. This could give opening to the oppressors to come in full force to attack me, whereby leaving me ineffective and without strong support. And so, let us examine the operations of the government for a second and what they do.

(Read COINTELPRO). We should look at and always examine the past and see how the Black Panther Party (BPP), the Black Liberation Army (BLA), the American Indian Movement (AIM) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement (CRM) were so effectively dismantled and how there was a lot of destruction and character assassinations against its leaders which lead to these movements' demise. This came not only through the various forms of character assassination attempts, but also through physical violence. This was fueled by the assassination schemes that were lodged against Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which we can see quoted from the book: Agents of Repression by Ward Churchill and Jim Vanderwall, p.54-55

... [T]he Crime Records Division disseminated a false story to the national media on October 24th, 1962 stating that " a concealed member of the national committee of the communist party", Jack O'Dell, was serving as "acting executive director of the SCLC." The story appeared in the Augusta Chronicle Birmingham News, St. Louis Globe Democrat, New Orleans Times-Picayune and Long Island Star Journal. O'Dell, whose role in

SCLC seems to have been the development of a mailing list—from New York rather than Atlanta—was forced to resign even this position.

King's response was to talk candidly with a reporter from New York Times, agreeing with the assessment of historian Howard Zinn that, "with all the violations by local police of their constitutional rights...the FBI has not made a single arrest in behalf of Negro citizens." King then went further by observing that most agents assigned to the South, none of whom were black, were themselves southerners who shared the racial sentiments of the rednecks, Klansmen, and police who confronted the civil rights activists: "If an FBI man agrees with segregation, he can't honestly and objectively investigate." Hoover dubbed King "the most notorious liar in the country."

The FBI investigated King's bank and charge accounts; instituted electronic surveillance on the Atlanta hideaway apartment; bugged King's office; looked for personal weakness among SCLC employees that could be used...; sent a forged letter in King's name to SCLC contributors warning them that an IRS investigation was to begin; and attempted to intensify a well-known mutual dislike of King and NAACP head Roy Wilkins.

Of course, this is just one example out of literally hundreds and thousands that could be used to make the point of how character assassination attempts, COINTELPRO operations and other acts can damage a people, group or movement, but it is one that should be considered very carefully. The point I want to stress here is that we must be mindful that we will be approached at some point in time, if we are involved or helping someone in doing revolutionary work, by someone with slanderous words and all sorts of things to get you to stop

what you are doing and give suspicion to the person or group you're working with or for. We must be careful not to allow this to pull down our ranks. We must be careful not to readily accept the whisper of someone, no matter how convincing or believable the story sounds without a thorough and full investigation. Then you must question the motive or reason as to why YOU have been selected and chosen to be told this information against one who is a proven comrade in faithful service to the people and in the struggle for liberation and the ending of all manner of oppression/repression. We must be cautious.

And we must also realize that not all those who profess to be "comrades" are comrades, and not all who are comrades are able to handle some forms of pressure that may be placed upon them and act from an emotional base which will cause them to abandon you and your movement or group.

Illogical Logic

American policy makers, i.e., politicians, think tank institutions, strategists all use what is called "illogical logic" when applying ways to maintain its dominant role over people and governments. The rule is so simple, yet strange because it gives one logical impression yet commits illogical acts to make things appear logical.

An example of this illogical logic is America's alleged "war on drugs". This is illogical logic being applied on a mass scale. The government and politicians are claiming to be fighting the war on drugs in order to get rid of the drugs which have infested and devastated the lives of American citizens, yet the American government is deeply involved and is an active participant in the drug business. In fact, the drug business is used to both subjugate people, while at the same time, dominate the countries that manufacture and distribute drugs. This is done to control these countries' economic resources and its economy, while also controlling its political arena for American interest.

A post invasion report on Panama presented to the UN Committee of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights by Mexican ambassador Javier Wimer had reported that the economy of Panama had collapsed with "catastrophic effects in the areas of food, housing, and basic services such as health, education and culture". In this report he goes on to state how the governments of Panama and the U.S. are jointly responsible for "serious and systematic" human rights violations. According to the respected Central America Report (Guatemala, CAR), the US drug war may be providing a cover for

attacks on community activists by the security forces and other human rights abuses.¹

This is not hard to believe when we take into consideration how the rhetoric of the 'war on drugs' has created economic and human devastation on all levels in America and throughout Central and South America. The logic or reasoning aspect the government has attempted to brainwash us with is that they are trying to rid the flow of drugs and stop drug cartels from bringing drugs into the country. Yet, it was the American government who placed many of the Presidential leaders into power in Central and South America in the first place, and in fact, used drugs as a weapon against various political movements and organizations here in the U.S. as a way of attacking the people's movements where drug usage would create numerous addicts and create such havoc that people would begin to kill one another for the ability to sell drugs. The American government locked untold numbers of people up for the use or the selling of drugs, while they distributed drugs into the American inner-city to secretly fund a war in Nicaragua during the tenure of Ronald Reagan's Presidency.

Every one knows that drugs were not in the abundance they are now until America began to get directly involved in Vietnam. In the 1960s and early to mid 1970s, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Panther Movement, Anti-War and anti-Imperialist movements, Workers Movements and

¹ Many people turned to heroin and other drugs during the 1960s and early 1970s to escape the misery of daily life. We should add that during this period the government launched its domestic war (COINTELPRO) on all revolutionary elements (whether groups or influential individuals), who protested against the U.S. and were calling for sweeping changes in America's political infrastructure.

Wimmin's Liberation Movement there was an abundance of heroin flooding the shores of America,² heroin that was very powerful and affordable enough for sores of people to get it. The ghettos and Barrios of America reeked with heroin, and with the heroin came massive amounts of guns which did not previously exist in the inner cities. Never had the ghettos and the barrios found themselves with the amount of guns they suddenly had when heroin flooded these communities. It may be hard to believe that America would want to use "chemical warfare" on its own citizens but that is exactly what happened.

As the drugs came in with more frequency, more people began to use and thus weaken the various movements that were agitating and protesting against the policies and laws America was imposing on the people. Jobs became scarce and moved out of the urban areas where they weren't easily accessible to the average person, but drugs were plentiful. So it wasn't illogical to see the economically depressed to begin selling drugs.

Once the main objective was achieved, which was to weaken any political or revolutionary dissent in this country by the usage of drugs, the laws began to tighten in order to lock up in prisons the many people who were using, selling and committing crimes to obtain drugs. While at the same time, this gave law enforcement reason to come into communities and seek out all political activists under the guise of searching for drug sales. The so called "logic" in this was to have the unsuspecting means to come into communities and to apply terrorist attacks against that community. This was

² See DD, introduction. Christopher Bellamy, International Affairs, July 1992.

to aid in the process of further destroying all that was left after drug proliferation in the targeted community(s).

What is illogical is the fact that this 'war on drugs' has never gone after the banks and the leading institutions that have made billions of dollars from the drug trade. However, to logically do so would hurt the economy of America. It would hurt the politicians who need drug money in order to have the means to obtain and secure big contracts for the government to produce all kinds of alleged weaponry to fight this 'war on drugs'. The manufacturing and selling of helicopters, ammunition, guns, and high tech devices in this crusade is a billion dollar industry and to tamper with that by stopping drugs would hurt the greed of capitalists.

The illogical logic is to manufacture and orchestrate a problem and then pretend that the problem must be eradicated while insuring the problem never leaves. From this thinking entire new capitalist industries have emerged, and many people who were post-laborers were no longer needed as technology reduced the need for workers/laborers. To profit off this "surplus of unemployed" was to have them off the streets and made into a commodity. Thus comes America's prison build-up.

The proliferation of prisons in America isn't by accident but by perfect illogical logic design. It was planned 20 years in advance of its coming into existence. As the Vietnam war came to a close and the Cold War with the former Soviet Union began to experience economic hardships, thanks to the role that the IMF-World Bank played, America's Pentagon and military began to focus their interest on Central and South America. Thus, the once dominant heroin business began to fade; a new source of affordable drugs was being introduced to the people.

Bolivia became an interest to the American government and was highly-touted as a success, its economy rescued from disaster by the mid-1980s. The new Economic Policy was prescribed by the expert advisers who were also playing their own craft in Eastern Europe. Public employment was sharply cut, the national mining company was sold off leading to massive unemployment of miners, wages dropped, rural teachers quit by the lot, regressive taxes were introduced, the economy shrank along with adequate investment, while inequality to the people increased. The Gross National Product (GNP) is three-fourths what it was in 1980, and foreign debt absorbed 30 percent of export earnings. The reward for this was the IMF, Interamerican Development Bank, and the G-7 Paris Club offered Bolivia extensive financial assistance, including secret payments to government leaders.

The miracle of this is that two-thirds of export earnings are now derived from coca production and trade, according to Melvin Burkes. The drug money explains the stabilization of currency and price levels, he concludes. About 30 percent of the \$3 billion in annual drug profits is spent and banked abroad, mainly in the US, providing a lift to the US economy as well. Burke continues by adding that "the 'narco-generals' of Bolivia apparently serve the United States' national interest, in so much as money laundering has not only been tolerated in the United States but has, in fact, been encouraged". It is "the poor peasant coca growers" who "struggle to survive against the combined armed might of the United States and the Bolivian military".³

³ Excerpts, NYT, March 81 Patrick Tyler, NYT, March 11; Barton Gellman, WP Weekly, March 16-22, 1992.

Ronald Reagan's war with Nicaragua found him no longer able to lobby Congress in order to obtain more funding for his continued fight against the Contras in Nicaragua, thus the next thing we found on the domestic front, was cocaine being allowed into this country by the mega-tons and easily available. Obviously planned and manipulated by the government.

Again came the abundance of cocaine and weapon, (like heroin and weapons came during the Vietnam War), which was precisely thought out by those in the position to see that AK-47 Assault Rifles, Uzis, and all types of automatic weapons were affordable and flooding the inner cities. This is not a hard thing to see if one has the eyes to see or want to see.

Within the madness of America's prison boom (dubbed the Prison Industrial Complex), sits 1.9-2 million people either in prison, jails, juvenile detention centers, on parole, probation or some form of state supervision. Many of whom are locked up as a direct or indirect result of drugs in some way. We must ask ourselves, "what logical sense does it make to lock people up on this scale and to spend the type of money they are spending to maintain and build more prisons, when the creation of millions of drug addicts in America was caused by this government and its hidden agendas?" And, we might add, "why would the government remove all higher education and vocational programs from its prisons if they were sincere about removing the crime problem"? Wouldn't it be feasible to have a person learn and develop life skills while in prison so that they would not have to return to prison as a result of having a lack of education or productive skills? Naturally, if you keep a person locked up for many years and do not allow them the ability to develop themselves where they can have a marketable skill or be able to compete in the job marked,

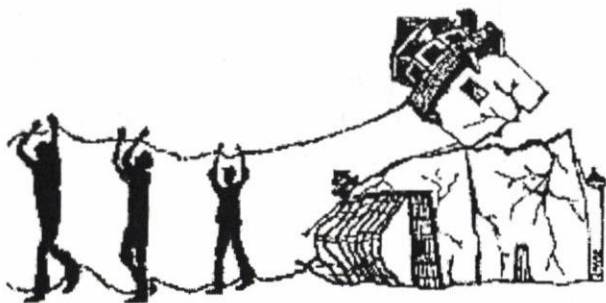
you set that person up to return to prison long before they are ever released. But from a logical point of view in the eyes of the government, what better way to insure there being filled prisons and thus billions of dollars made from this new growth? Nor is it illogical to have a judicial system that continues to erode more and more of the basic and fundamental rights, where it becomes a virtual obstacle course to have your case heard, not to mention obtain justice, when the government itself is steeped in illegal activities.

It is then logical to have sentencing disparities and harsher sentences for one group, race, or class of people who commit an alleged crime than another. They can then justify targeting one group, race, or class of people, while at the same time, using the TV propaganda machine to give the mental image that the crime rate is high because of this group, race or class of people. This would incite and cause a predictable reaction, and people allowing the government to do as it pleases, accepting whatever government lies under the guise of "law and order". We must not be fooled and we must be aware that this government places all sorts of illusionary acts before you to have you see one thing while they are actually doing another.

The proliferation of prisons and the crime rate in America goes hand-in-hand. The idea of mass incarceration is to prepare for the New World Order ideology that America plans to institute along with other countries and to this there must be "law and order" in the manner that "they" want it to be.

It is illogical to allow millions of people to die when there is a way to save their lives, but when you apply illogical logic and look at the bottom line, then it becomes logical to allow millions of people to die. For example, America's pharmaceutical companies refuse to

reduce the price of their drugs to fight the HIV/AIDS virus for the people of Africa. Why? Because the concept of the capitalist is that it is "illogical" to make affordable drugs and not make money only to save lives. "Logically" one would think that the medical profession and the pharmaceutical companies are producing medicines to save lives and to expand the healthy quality of lives, but to make money, even if it means millions must die to do so. That is illogical logic being applied and it is applied daily. The sacrifice of the many for the financial gain of a few. Understanding these points is very hard to simply sit down and digest because we are taught to believe logical facts and truths yet we see the logical illogically applied on a daily basis, so we have become immune to it and cannot readily see it as it appears before us. This is why this country has slowly become a fascist state and there is no real public outcry about it. People don't like to see it. They do not see the creeping take over of one's life. Government is slowly taking total control of our lives, and those who refuse or rebel are targeted for immediate aggression by the system.



Interview with Bart De Geeter

Bart: Do you have a special opinion about violence/non-violence as a strategy for protest?

Ali: First off, thank you for this opportunity to participate in the dialogue with you and your readers.

I find that, unfortunately, violence is a means, which will obtain the oppressor's ear. Because what I have seen all my life and what is happening today with more and more oppressive and repressive laws and police brutality taking place globally, waving peace signs and having rallies and demonstrations isn't making a difference. If anything, we are being ignored and even attacked (violently) by the police for peaceful protests. So I believe that the people have a right and a duty to defend themselves and to strike back when attacked. I also believe that we live in a world where your passiveness will only get you beaten or killed, so violence becomes a necessary means to an end. What is the end? The end result is to have peace. Some say peace through violence is never attainable, but I would say this, as long as those in power are being violent against the people the people MUST respond with strategic action.

Bart: Is your stance purely pacifist or is violence in some way necessary?

Ali: As I've stated, violence is necessary, but only when in defense of one's life. Again, when one is attacked and abused then they have a right to become violent. If I see someone ready to do physical harm to another and that person has done nothing, then I will stop the one who is

trying to do harm. If that means I must be violent to do this then I will be violent. As for being passive... passivity has never brought anything but it has invited someone else to be aggressive, abusive and dominating against you/us. It would sure be a nice thing to see a world where there is no violence, but we do not live in such a world. We live, unfortunately, in a world where we have women being raped, boys being raped, and children sold into prostitution for porno pleasure. We have leaders of governments and Heads of States committing mass murder in the name of some ideology which boils down to greed, control of resources available in a particular country, racism, homophobia, religious doctrines, etc.

My stance is this... I want peace. I want harmony, but I am not going to allow [anyone] to hurt me or those around me who are innocent.

Bart: What about violence breed violence?

Ali: This is an old saying and it is usually something that the agents for those in corrupted power have one of their lackeys tell people hoping that they (the people) will buy into it. Violence doesn't breed violence. Further, it depends on who is committing the violence and whether that violence is offensive or defensive. If you are offensively using violence then the only thing that will come out the violence[committed against the people] is more violence [against the perpetrator] in defense. If you were violent and I did not do anything to stop you, then I am asking to be wiped off the earth because someone else doesn't want me to live. Violence isn't the cause for violence. Greed is. Homophobia is. Class and other divisions to deny human beings the right and the dignity to have an equal share of the world's

wealth and resources are the real things that produce violence.

Bart: Now, with the global demonstrations there is a lot of discussion about it. Like about smashing McDonalds during protests. Does that make any sense?

Ali: During a protest many people find various forms to express their anger and disappointment with being treated as less than human or for being abused and oppressed or repressed by the system, a boss on a job, or something. They react by destroying something they feel is a representation of that which has caused them hardship. Smashing a McDonalds has become the symbol of young people's anger because McDonalds has managed to find itself in many countries making its multi-millions and billions of dollars and not giving anything back to the millions of people who have made it as it is, RICH! But, I find that smashing a McDonalds is not doing anything of importance but making McDonalds even more money. When you smash its window or something, the company is being paid for that window to be replaced and it is also getting something for the damage, so the company has made a profit from the brick thrown through its window. Furthermore, smashing a window isn't going to have a lasting or important affect on McDonalds' operations. Why take the chance of being shot and killed to smash a window that won't make any policy changes? If you are going to do something that could land you in prison or dead, then at least make what you do WORTH IT. Make what you do COUNT for something very important.

When we smash McDonalds windows and the news show this, all they show is that of a band of people aimlessly throwing a rock or a brick through a window.

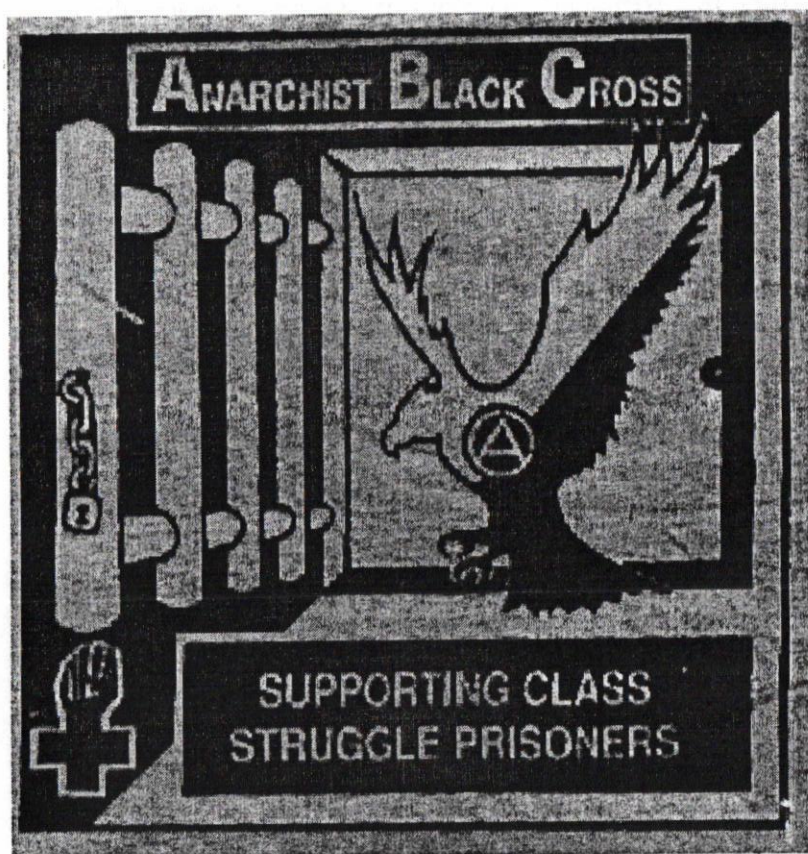
It doesn't make any form of statement and the public (who see this on TV) see this as reckless action, not an action based on real substance. They do not see this as a revolutionary act to stop capitalist greed and exploitation and imperialism. So me personally, I think it is a waste of time that we could be using to do some other real action that can get results, or at least, capture the world's attention. Then you can make your issues known because now you have a world listening. No one listens or even cares about a McDonalds window being smashed.

I believe that young people especially need to come together and begin to do some very serious study and dialogue with one another globally. I believe that the youth are the ones who will make the difference in this struggle for liberation, equality and justice. So I think that it is imperative that the young people today really begin to look at the issues and develop ideas and ways in which to see those ideas become realities. There should be workshops going on to help educate others and to share with others the need for strategic planning, if you know what I mean? Tactics ought to be learned, and specific training ought to be developed in case it is needed. It will be if you are attacking the oppressors of the world.

There should be no time or room for getting high on drugs, because this doesn't allow you to be in focus or in your right state of mind. The same with drinking and getting drunk. This is not revolutionary and it only plays into the hands of those who want to keep us high and unable to function so that they (the powers that be) can easily move in on us and do as they please. We must be conscious of this and realize that the war we fight is one on all fronts. This includes trying to wear or buy the latest fashions of clothes and other things they (the powers that be) throw up to cause mass distractions.

We must rise up and recognize that this is not a game. Being serious about political change, real social change, is not a game and the powers that be are not playing any games. They are serious. Dead serious and will terminate any one of us if we aren't really prepared to fight.

[This interview was conducted by Bart De Greer, who puts out a zine called: "Mindbreaker" in Belgium. He may be contacted by writing to him at: Doorniksewijk 134, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium.]



WHY AREN'T MORE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT?

The Anarchist movement the world over is comprised of more whites than people of color. The vast majority of Anarchist writings are written by and published by whites. Further, the overall Anarchist movement, though it claims to be inclusive of all people, has shown itself to be less than what it claims. The Anarchist movement must begin to examine and re-examine itself if we are going to build a movement that truly represents all people - if we are sincere about fighting against and ending all manner of racism and classism and kapitalism, which fuel racism.

The Anarchist movement must extend itself to working with the New Afrikan (Black) communities in Amerikkka, the Afrikan communities in Afrika and everywhere where there are people of color, be it in the U.K., Central or South America, the Caribbean Islands, or other places. This must be a reality or the Anarchist movement can not and will not grow but will merely be a small reminder of what could have been.

In Amerikkka, Blacks, Latinos and First Nation (Native American) people are experiencing treatment worse than other groups of people; yet, the overall Anarchist movement isn't making its mark in these communities. Anarchists aren't developing ties with Black leaders, activists and politically charged groups, and the lack of action on the part of Anarchists shows a clear **CONTRADICTION** to the direct principles Anarchists believe in.

The Black, Latinos and First Nation communities aren't being invited to the Anarchist table, aren't given support by Anarchists as a whole. Why? Why are people

claiming to be Anarchists or anti-authority and yet are living segregated lives away from people who are daily abused by the very governmental and societal systems that we claim to hate? There is a problem here.

The Anarchist Action Collective in Eugene, Oregon, in the United States, sent me a flyer entitled "Why Anarchy" and it had ten points explaining why there is a need for Anarchy. In this flyer the fact was reported that there is a "deepening crisis at every level," but there was no mention of the NEED for Anarchists to get readily involved in the struggle of people of color. It did not openly state how Anarchists must challenge the racist policies of Amerikkka's practice of racial profiling, which result in attacks on Black adults and youth by the police and judicial system. It did not state that Anarchists have a DUTY and RESPONSIBILITY to unite with people of color and live away from the secluded white areas where few Blacks and other people of color live. Anarchists must do this if we are going to struggle day by day with our people in need. Knowing the problems yet not doing anything collectively or individually in terms of ACTION is the same as not giving a damn. Why should Black people, Latino people, First Nation people or Asian people work with, support and fight with anarchists when they aren't being consulted, acknowledged (with real intent), aided or supported in their plights and valued for the knowledge they have?

As an Anarchist and as a New Afrikan, I find it downright embarrassing for the Anarchist movement not to be more completely involved with the conditions of my people and working hand in hand with my people. I find it sickening to read how Anarchists believe this and believe that but yet haven't any substantial numbers of Black, Latino, First Nation or Asian people within their collectives. Why hasn't the Anarchist movement taken on

a more progressive and active role to reach these people? These people of color? And why do we only read and parrot what Anarchists of old have said and done when we have brilliant, articulate and committed Anarchists today who can be looked upon or read about and given the benefit of applying their ideas and methods?

If we don't break free from a basically white-concentrated group to a movement of all colors and representing all interests, then we will not be an effective movement and will choke on our past glorification at the exclusion of others who could contribute, benefit and gain from the Anarchist movement here in Amerikkka and around the world.

There has to be a "re-thinking" in our approach, in our overall views. Where there is the most oppression is where anarchists should be. Where there is the most repression is where the Anarchists should set up bases and propagate - win minds to our cause, aims and objectives. We do not need to be posted up in hideaway holes in isolation from the most disenfranchised or the dispossessed. What has made Anarchism not appeal to many people of color is the very lack of action I am speaking of. Sure, there are some people of color who are Anarchist and believe in its principles, but we are relatively few. This must change!

It is often said and suggested that "Anarchists are increasingly more militant." However, when I look and see the racist police gunning down Black people - New Afrikan people - I have to ask "Where are the Anarchists in mass protest?" Yet, I always read or see on the news some mask-faced white person claiming to be an Anarchist throwing a damn brick or bottle through a Macdonald's Restaurant. I can always read about a mass group of people claiming to be and-authoritarian and taking Direct Action to save some trees, wild life or

some environmentally blighted area (which is important), but why aren't they this passionately active when it comes to the complete inhumane treatment of fellow human beings who just happen to be people of color? There is something majorly wrong with this picture. It is slanted. It is skewed and if I can see it, surely millions of other Black and Latino and First Nation people can see it.



Youths challenging police after Medgar Evers's funeral.
(UPI/Bettmann)

Anarchists Must Know the True History of the Black Struggle

In a recent article I wrote entitled "Why Aren't More People of Color in the Anarchist Movement?" I pointed out the need for anarchists (world-wide) to begin getting involved, working with, and supporting the causes of Blacks, Latinos, First Nations' people (aka Native Americans) so that the overall anarchist community will reflect its true ideals and philosophy in principles which calls for a political philosophy that embraces democracy and freedom, and seeks to destroy all forms of coercion and oppression. For a philosophy based on a collective whereby people can freely associate with equal power to determine their future, it is vital that there be a clear understanding of the Black struggles of yesterday and today. Murray Bookchin, in *The Modern Crisis*, p79, stated "... the making of the human being.. is a collective process, a process in which both community and the individual participate." If we understand this, and if we are sincere about the philosophies of anarchy, then we must understand why it is imperative to, not only understand the TRUE historical facts as they relate to Blacks and other peoples of colour, but also immerse ourselves into the continuing struggle they (we) face today.

The anarchist community need to know about the black women who stood up and voiced their anger against the fierce white oppression and who paved the way for the modern women's' liberation movement that are too often buried within the pages of **HIS**tory. Take the question of the slave revolts leading to the birth of Abolitionism, which created a new chapter in American character. The very nature of anarchism is the absolute rejection of oppression and repression. The slaves in

Amerika were FORCED to take names given, branded upon them by white slave owners. Therefore the simple act of choosing a name outside the slave owners' enforcement was, not only a courageous act, but also an act right out of the pages of anarchism. It may sound rather simple but let us examine this point: a Black woman (Sojourner Truth) decided she no longer wished to be branded by slave owners by carrying the name given to her. THAT is the first step of anarchist rebellion and the rejection of patriarchy, as she also rejected the name of her husband, which patriarchal society dictated a woman must take after marriage in her time. She said she "talked with God," told him she refused to bear a slave name, and asked what she should do? "He" answered her as follows: Sojourn the whole world over and tell everyone the truth about American democracy, that it doesn't exist for blacks. That is how she decided to call herself "Sojourner Truth". This historical act falls right in line with anarchist views. To quote Proudhon, "All associated and all free." Or, as Luigi Galleani puts it, anarchism is "the autonomy of the individual within the freedom of association."

In 1831 when the slave Nat Turner led a save revolt in the State of Virginia, he acted from the very same principles that anarchy proclaims, namely; if liberty is essential for the fullest development of the individual, then equality is essential for liberty to exist. There can be no real freedom in a class-oriented hierarchical society laden with profound inequalities of power, wealth and privilege. But how many anarchists have ever viewed the black slave revolts as anarchy in nature and in motion?

Also, in the same year as Nat Turner's Slave revolt (1831), Maria Stewart spoke out in public - the first American-born woman, white or black, to speak

publicly. Here is what she said: "O ye daughters of Afrika, awake! Awake! Arise! No longer sleep nor slumber but distinguish yourselves. Show forth to the world that ye are endowed with noble and exalted faculties... How long shall the fair daughters of Afrika be compelled to bury their minds and talents beneath a load of iron pots and kettles?... How long shall a mean set of men flatter us with their smiles and enrich themselves with our hard earnings, their wives' fingers sparkling with rings and they themselves laughing at our folly?" Again, this shows a strong anarchist line being held, being proclaimed for "anarchy" means "without rulers" or "without (hierarchical) authority." Maria Stewart was on point because anarchists are anti-authoritarians, believing that no human being should dominate another. Yet how many anarchists have ever known of this black woman's speech or her name? Or that of Sojourner Truth? This is what I mean when I said it is imperative that collectively, the anarchist community involve themselves, learn, know and embrace the struggles of people of colour so that the overall anarchist community isn't, in appearance, a majority white radical movement but a multi-cultural movement and well-versed so that anarchist literature speaks to all people.

Most, if not all, anarchist literature that I've read had figures representing ONLY white people, including cartoons. It strikes me as odd that this would be so, because the message displays a negation of non-whites, which, while it may not be the intention, send a message of exclusion. The figure or cartoon of a black-masked white-faced person doesn't really say to non-whites "we include you". Therefore, deep within the premise of anarchism exists an element of race exclusion. Of ethnic exclusion, though there may be rationalizations to the

contrary. Tom Patterson, wrote in "Inventing Western Civilization" (1997): "The word civilization evokes powerful images and understandings." How much more of a powerful image can there be when we only project the figures, pictures and cartoons presenting anarchy as white, i.e. with features clearly definable as white? I have made this same claim to my Wobbly comrades in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) asking that they change the old image of a white man in overalls with his big arms folded across his chest because it reflects a symbol of white male superiority and thus alienates blacks and other peoples of colour and women. Within the anarchist collective or within the IWW, there are no images of Blackness, only of whiteness, which if truly examined, goes against the very principles anarchism proclaims. Social equality and individual liberty are inseparable. Without the collective self-management of decisions that affect a group (equality) to complement the individual self-management of decisions that affect the individual (liberty), a free society is impossible. (Principles of Anarchism, p8).

The recent events in Seattle's protest of the WTO saw very few black people in mass protest but it is black people the world over who suffer most from Capital's disenfranchisement and unfair labour practices. Anarchists must address this issue and ask "why? Anarchists must reach into the bowels of the black communities to find out what caused their lack of interest in the march and protest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington DC and then ponder over whether or not the black community was truly contacted and/or invited to give real input into the demonstrations and have their issues and grievances truly heard, represented and fought for. We cannot be parading around in masks and signs pretending to be

against the evils and inhumanity of Capitalism while at the same time negate, in our actions, those most affected by capitalism.



Fannie Lou Hamer. (Library of Congress)

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Information about, writings by, and ways to help Ali and his organization, the Political Prisoners of War Coalition, can be obtained by contacting any of the following:

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Tompkins Sq Sta
NY, NY 10009-9991

PPWC Info Center
Cynthia Ritsher
PO Box 554
Lincoln, MA 01773

South Chicago ABC
Zine Distro
PO Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

A.P.L.A.N.
818 SW 3rd Ave
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Black Star Collective
c/o Mutual Aid Portland
PO Box 7328
Portland, ME 04112

Who Is Ali Khalid Abdullah?

Ali Khalid Abdullah is a New Afrikan (Black) Anarchist prisoner, who was convicted in 1989 of "Assault with Intent to Rob while Armed." He was sentenced to 10 to 20 years. This came as a result of him and other comrades attempting to enact Peoples Justice against a major drug dealer who allowed one of his drug workers to sexually abuse an 11 year old girl as "PAYMENT" for the little girls' mother's drug habit. Ali and his comrades were unable to locate the drug dealer or his workers, however they did locate a front business that was being used to launder money, and distribute large quantities of drugs. The money that was going to be appropriated was to be redistributed to their community through various organizations designated to help the poor, and the drugs were to be destroyed. Ali and his comrades discovered that the people working there had were unaware of the nature of the business. At this point, Ali apologized and left the premises taking nothing and harming no one. However he and his comrades were arrested and sentenced to prison.

Since he has been in prison, Ali has continued his political activities by working to politicize social prisoners. He has written many articles, essays, and zines. In 1994 he founded an organization called the Political Prisoners of War Coalition (PPWC) which has gained a wide international network. The PPWC produces a regular update, and has published various political pamphlets.

Because of his political work he is subjected to massive abuse and harassment. He has been eligible for parole since 1996, yet the Michigan Parole Board has continuously denied him parole for unsupported reasons. His most recent parole hearing was in February and he was denied for the fifth time. Ali has reached out and supported many people around the world. We must now offer him MAXIMUM support and demand his release.



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